

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 7 as follows, wherein insertions are underlined and deletions are indicated with strikethrough or double brackets. Also, please add new claim 15 shown below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Original). A lever-support bracket apparatus for a small waterboat in which a seat is placed above a deck, an engine is placed below the deck, a jet propulsion unit is placed in the rear of the engine, a steering nozzle for fixing an ejection direction of jet water is placed in the rear of the jet propulsion unit, a reverse bucket for guiding the jet water to the front is placed in the rear of the steering nozzle, and the reverse bucket is made operable by an operation lever, wherein

the operation lever is placed in the vicinity of a front end of the seat, and is attached to the deck by a lever-support bracket to swing freely, and

wherein the lever-support bracket apparatus comprises a socket section into which a tongue-shaped piece at the front end of the seat can be inserted, said socket section integrally formed with said lever-support bracket to be a piece therewith.

Claim 2 (Original). A lever-support bracket apparatus for a small waterboat having a deck, and in which a seat is placed above the deck, an engine is placed below the deck, and a jet-propulsion unit is placed behind the engine, the waterboat also having a steering nozzle behind the jet propulsion unit for fixing an ejection direction of jet water, and a reverse bucket adjacent the steering nozzle for selectively guiding the jet water towards

the front of the boat, the reverse bucket being operable by an operation lever,
wherein said lever-support bracket apparatus is provided for placement in the
vicinity of a front end of the seat, said apparatus comprising:

a lever-support bracket which is attachable to the deck of said
waterboat and is pivotally attachable to said operation lever for
facilitating control of the position of said reverse bucket, and
a socket section for receiving a tongue-shaped piece at the front
end of the seat;

wherein at least part of said socket section is rigidly connected to
said lever-support bracket.

Claim 3 (Original). The lever-support bracket apparatus of claim 2, wherein the lever-support bracket comprises a base portion and an upper portion attached to the base portion and extending upwardly therefrom.

Claim 4 (Original). The lever-support bracket apparatus of claim 3, wherein the base portion comprises front and rear leg sections, each having left and right ends.

Claim 5 (Original). The lever-support bracket apparatus of claim 4, wherein each of the left and right ends of the front and rear leg sections has an attachment hole formed therethrough.

Claim 6 (Original). The lever-support bracket apparatus of claim 2, wherein the

operation lever comprises disc having a hole formed therethrough to receive a mounting bolt.

Claim 7 (Currently amended). The lever-support bracket apparatus of claim 2, wherein the operation lever has an arcuate slot formed therein to guide sliding movement thereof.

Claim 8 (original). A small waterboat, comprising:

a deck;
a seat situated above the deck;
an engine situated below the deck;
a jet-propulsion unit located behind the engine;
a steering nozzle located behind the jet propulsion unit for fixing an ejection direction of jet water, and
a reverse bucket adjacent the steering nozzle for selectively guiding the jet water towards the front of the boat, the reverse bucket being operable by an operation lever, wherein said lever-support bracket apparatus is provided for placement in the vicinity of a front end of the seat, said apparatus comprising:
a lever-support bracket which is attachable to the deck of said waterboat
and is pivotally attachable to said operation lever for facilitating control of the position of said reverse bucket, and
a socket section for receiving a tongue-shaped piece at the front end of the seat;

wherein at least part of said socket section is rigidly connected to
said lever-support bracket.

Claim 9 (original). The waterboat of claim 8, wherein the lever-support bracket comprises a base portion and an upper portion attached to and extending upwardly from the base portion.

Claim 10 (original). The waterboat of claim 9, wherein the base portion of the lever-support bracket comprises front and rear lcg sections, each having left and right ends.

Claim 11 (original). The waterboat of claim 10, wherein each of the left and right ends of the front and rear sections of the base portion of the lever-support bracket has an attachment hole formed therethrough.

Claim 12 (original) The waterboat of claim 8, wherein the operation lever comprises a disc having a hole formed centrally therethrough to receive a mounting bolt.

Claim 13 (original). The waterboat of claim 8, wherein the operation lever has arcuate slot formed therein to guide sliding movement thereof.

Claim 14 (original). The waterboat of claim 9, wherein the operation lever has an arcuate slot formed therein to guide sliding movement thereof.

Claim 15 (new). The waterboat of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the operation lever and the socket section are non-moveable relative to each other.